

GOD'S PLAN



WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE
FULL SERMON



WEEK 1

THE BIBLICAL CHURCH

Matthew 16:13-16

This sermon explores the true identity and mission of the church, emphasizing that it is not a building, but a collective body of believers led by Jesus Christ. The pastor highlights the importance of understanding our role as the church and encourages daily engagement with Scripture to empower us in fulfilling our mission. Emphasizing unity and advancement of Christ's kingdom, the sermon challenges believers to be active participants in God's work, acting as ambassadors in a fallen world.

DAY 1: Our Unshakeable Leader

Reading:

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Matthew 16:13-20

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." 15 He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." 20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

Devotional:

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" He wasn't seeking information—He was inviting revelation. Peter's declaration that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" became the foundation of the church. Notice that Jesus is called the Son of Man, a title pointing to Daniel's vision of an everlasting kingdom spanning every nation, tribe, and tongue. This isn't a temporary movement or cultural trend; it's an eternal reality. Your leader cannot fail, His kingdom cannot be destroyed, and His dominion will never end. When you place your life in His hands, you've chosen the safest, most secure foundation possible. Today, reflect on this: Are you building your life on the unshakeable Rock, or on shifting sand?

DAY 2: Unity in the Body

Reading:

1 Peter 2:4-5

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Devotional:

The church isn't a building—it's living stones being built together into a spiritual house. Peter understood that while Jesus is the big rock (petra), we are the small rocks (petros) being fitted together by the Master Builder. This unity isn't optional; it's foundational to God's design. The world constantly tries to divide us—by race, politics, economics, or preferences. But God's kingdom transcends all these boundaries, calling people from every background into one unified body. You're not a stranger or alien anymore; you're a fellow citizen with the saints, part of God's household. The presence of God doesn't dwell in brick and mortar but in the collective hearts surrendered to Him. How are you contributing to unity in your local church body?

DAY 3: Ambassadors in a Foreign Land

Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:20

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Devotional:

You are an ambassador for Christ—a representative of heaven's kingdom stationed on foreign soil. Like an embassy represents its nation's values and laws in another country, the church represents heaven's culture in a fallen world. This means we don't adopt the world's patterns, nor do we simply commentate on its brokenness. We actively represent the King and His kingdom, pleading with others to be reconciled to God. Your citizenship is in heaven; you're here on a work visa with an expiration date. Don't get too comfortable in this world. The culture around you will try to influence the embassy, but remember whose you are and who sent you. Today, ask yourself: Am I representing Christ well in my sphere of influence, or have I adopted too much of the surrounding culture?

DAY 4: The Offense Belongs to Jesus

Reading:

Matthew 16:18

18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Devotional:

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." These aren't the words of someone playing defense. Jesus is on the offense, actively building His church, and hell itself cannot stop Him. Gates don't attack; they defend. The enemy is trying to keep you from advancing, but he cannot prevent what Jesus has promised. This shift in perspective changes everything. You're not barely surviving in a hostile world; you're advancing the unstoppable kingdom of God. Yes, there will be attacks and opposition, but the outcome is already determined—Jesus wins, and so does His church. Success is guaranteed because the Builder cannot fail. Stop living like you're losing and start advancing like you're on the winning team. Where has fear kept you on defense when God has called you to advance?

DAY 5: Keys to the Kingdom

Reading:

Acts 17:10-12

10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Devotional:

Jesus gave His church the keys to the kingdom—access and authorization to unlock heaven's resources for earthly battles. But many believers don't know which key to use or where to find it when needed. The Bereans discovered the secret: they received God's Word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily. Christianity isn't a one-day-a-week commitment. Sunday should be the culmination of what you've already been receiving throughout the week. The keys you need—for your finances, relationships, struggles, and decisions—are found in God's Word. But you must be familiar with the Book to know which key unlocks which door. The power is available; the question is whether you'll access it. Commit today to daily engagement with Scripture. What specific area of your life needs you to find and use the right key from God's Word?

Closing Reflection:

This week, you've explored your identity as part of Christ's church—united, advancing, possessed by Him, guaranteed success, and empowered with kingdom keys. The question now is: Will you live like who you are? Will you embrace your role as an ambassador, advance with confidence, and daily access the power available to you? Jesus is building His church. Make sure you're building with Him.